THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

IN-OVATIONS

School of Social Welfare Newsletter

KU
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE
The University of Kansas
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

With this inaugural issue of In-Ovations, we focus attention on our country’s children, and the work of the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare in addressing some of the pressing issues affecting children and their families today.

No one who listens thoughtfully to the daily news will have failed to notice that the promise of the American dream is becoming increasingly inaccessible to large portions of our society’s children and their families. Even with abundant resources as a society, our children are lagging behind their international peers in educational attainment, exposure to community/environmental risk factors, and lack of access to services known to ameliorate these dangers and enhance resilience. This is particularly true of children and adolescents placed at risk by economic, social, institutional, historical and environmental factors. In a world where context often dictates outcomes, decision-makers sometimes forget the reality that these children are our future. As Vice President Biden has poignantly observed:

“Those are not someone else’s children, they’re our children. They’re the kite strings that hold our national ambitions aloft.”

In this newsletter, we describe some of the work of our faculty and research staff who are aggressively pursuing innovative solutions to many of these issues.

- The work of faculty members William Elliott, Deborah Adams, Terri Friedline, Edward Scanlon, and Toni Johnson over the past several years has addressed directly that portion of the American dream that has to do with achieving educational equity for children and youth.
- Tom McDonald, Becci Akin and Stephanie Bryson were awarded a federal grant of $13 million to pursue answers to the question: what are the best practices for reuniting children and parents when child behavioral/emotional issues have resulted in foster placement.
- Jody Brook and Tom McDonald addressed family reunification when the issue is parental substance abuse. Brook and McDonald’s findings turn conventional practice around, with data suggesting that a focus on parenting skill development may achieve better outcomes than a strategy focusing solely on parental sobriety.
- Terry Moore developed a web-based management reporting application, sometimes called a “digital dashboard,” that is being offered in partnership with Casey Family Programs across the country helping state child welfare agencies develop the analytic capacity to improve programs to enhance outcomes for children and families.

We also report on program developments, successes of our students and alumni and our annual alumni event Social Work Day (the 62nd annual Social Work Day!).

I hope you find this issue of In-Ovations enjoyable and informative. Stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Kondrat, Ph.D.,
Dean

Visit socwel.ku.edu for the latest University of Kansas School of Social Welfare academic and research developments.
LAUNCH OF THE ASSETS AND EDUCATION INITIATIVE

It is hard to go a month without a new report being produced that details the extent of household wealth inequality in the United States. However, there is little mention of wealth inequality among children, how children’s wealth inequality may perpetuate wealth inequality in adulthood, or how to potentially reduce wealth inequality.

With the launch of a new initiative, the Assets and Education Initiative (AEDI), and the hiring of two new faculty in the area of asset building and economic, educational, and racial disparities, the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare is increasing its research efforts to explore and study advances related to assets and economic well-being with a focus on children.

In March 2012, the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare and the Center for Social Development at Washington University hosted the Assets and Education Research Symposium at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, which acted as the official kickoff for the Assets and Education Initiative. The symposium was designed to present new research on assets and education, stimulate thoughtful review and critique of the research to date, and guide future research efforts in the field. The topic of assets and education requires an inter-disciplinary approach, so the event invited the involvement of scholars from diverse fields of study. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare presenters, William Elliott, Terri Friedline, Deborah Adams and Edward Scanlon were joined by nearly a dozen other scholars and experts in poverty, education, assets and social justice including nationally renowned speakers Michael Sherraden, Michael Lomax and Mark Rank.

“The University of Kansas has long been recognized as a national leader in issues of assets, poverty and social issues,” said Mary Ellen Kondrat, dean of the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare. “With the launch of AEDI, the research focuses on the economic well-being of low-income and minority children and provides a foundation for understanding and for suggesting policies that can help address poverty, educational attainment and growing gap between rich and poor. Our faculty in this area are breaking new ground.”

The Assets and Education Initiative, led by William Elliott, assistant professor at the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, conducts activities that build AEDI’s and the field’s capacity to conduct rigorous research related to assets and education, implement a strategy for collaboration among researchers, and implement a strategic communication plan to build public momentum around improving the economic well-being of low-income and minority children. The mission of AEDI is to create and study innovations related to assets and economic well-being with a focus on the relationship between children’s savings and the educational outcomes of low-income and minority children as a way to achieve the American dream.

“It is not our goal to simply do research for the sake of research. Instead, we want to conduct research in order to create and expand policies that improve children’s economic well-being,” said Elliott.

Society’s growing interest in children’s savings as a way to improving education outcomes, particularly among low-income and minority children is most evident in the rapidly changing policy of the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). This might be the area where research by AEDI scholars has had the most impact. In November 2010, DOE, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) established a new federal partnership to encourage schools, financial institutions, federal grantees, and other stakeholders to work together to increase financial literacy, access to federally insured bank accounts, and savings among students and families across the country. AEDI scholars’ research was important in forging this alliance.

The biggest sign of both DOE’s and the education field’s increased interest in assets came the last day of May 2012. DOE announced a new college-savings-account research demonstration project, which will be implemented within the GEAR UP program. Elliott was invited to speak at the announcement of this new demonstration with Under Secretary of the Department of Education Martha Kanter and Congressman Chaka Fattah from Pennsylvania among others. The demonstration will test the effectiveness of pairing new federally supported college savings accounts with GEAR UP activities against the effectiveness of standard GEAR UP activities, which do not include college savings accounts. They will initially allocate $8.7 million worth of funds that are already appropriated to support the demonstration.

“Over the past several years, research conducted by AEDI scholars has had substantial impact on children’s savings policy in the U.S. The goal now is to build upon the momentum we have gained. With the increased focus by President Obama’s administration on evidence-based policies, the need for rigorous research has grown. AEDI scholars plan to rise to this challenge and continue to produce original research that helps shape these policies,” said Elliott.
The Office of Child Welfare and Children’s Mental Health
Our researchers are providing information on best practices to reunite children with their families after foster care. Others are examining the coordination between school and child welfare services, or exploring system responsiveness to children of immigrants. Because of our collaborative work with state agencies and organizations in Kansas and across the nation, children with mental health needs and their families can access better services within their home communities. Our Grand Challenge is to help each child reach his or her full potential.

Tom McDonald, Ph.D., Professor, Associate Dean

Becci Akin, Ph.D., Research Associate

RESEARCHERS WIN $13 MILLION GRANT TO HELP FOSTER KIDS IN KANSAS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

According to the Children’s Alliance of Kansas, approximately 5,500 to 8,500 children in Kansas are receiving foster care services. The research shows that of these children 40 to 50 percent suffer from serious emotional disturbances and are placed out of the home. Tom McDonald, Stephanie Bryson and Becci Akin are working to make a difference. As co-principal investigators of a five-year, $13.3 million grant from Department of Health & Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families, they are working to make family life better for children in foster care who have serious emotional disabilities.

The grant is the largest in the history of the School of Social Welfare, and should result in improved outcomes for kids in Kansas as well as new employment in the state.

“This population is in need,” said Tom McDonald, University of Kansas professor of social welfare. “Half the kids who enter foster care have serious emotional disabilities. We’re talking about kids with mental health problems that substantially disrupt social, academic, and emotional functioning. They stay longer in foster care and often have many placements because of some of their behaviors.”

The funds will create a new initiative — the Kansas Intensive Permanency Project (KIPP) — to serve 2,160 Kansas families of children with the most severe mental health and behavioral problems.

Specifically, the grant will provide in-home therapy and resources to these families while their children are in foster care, with the aim of supporting permanent reunification of those families.

“Sometimes, kids’ behavior is so extreme that they present a danger to themselves or others, and it’s no longer possible to maintain the child in the home,” said McDonald. “For example, kids could be running away, setting fires, or being aggressive to other kids in the home.”

McDonald added, “Yet, there’s good evidence that those children can be best cared for in those families of origin if the families themselves get the support they need.”

The foster care system in Kansas has been privatized since 1997. The grant funds have enabled the four private nonprofit providers of family reunification/foster care services in Kansas — Youthsville, TFI Family Services Inc., KVC Behavioral HealthCare Kansas Inc. and St. Francis Community Services — to give a range of new resources to families and to hire 40 new staff to work with those families.

“The grant will allow the foster care providers—who are the experts in these cases—to provide families whatever therapeutic or concrete support they may need,” McDonald said. “Funds will help agencies hire dedicated therapists who can work with families intensively. Funds could also help with things like housing, medical care, or daycare for the child that would allow parents to be employed.”

At the same time, the children in foster care will continue to receive treatment and intervention, with the aim of making family reunification possible.

The grant is part of a federal effort to test child welfare plans and promote effective initiatives nationwide. Nationally, HHS awarded six grants. The grant to the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare is the only such grant awarded to a university.

Working in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the school will coordinate the efforts of Kansas’ four nonprofit providers of foster care services.

“We’ll take a lead role in terms of working with outside consultants, conducting a thorough needs assessment before implementation, and ensuring fidelity to the program intervention,” said McDonald. “We’ll also come up with screening tools to identify families in need earlier in the life of a case. The hope is that we can change the trajectories of kids entering foster care in the future.”

KIPP has recently received national recognition as Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth, and Services (ACF), recognized the project as one of the most exemplary models for nimble planning, data validation and execution to date. In addition, the co-principal investigators presented a national webinar in December 2012 to ACF grantees who were recently awarded child welfare waiver demonstration projects.

Contact TOM MCDONALD at t-mcdonald@ku.edu to discuss further.
When substance abuse necessitates the separation of children from families, the process of reuniting them while addressing the substance abuse issues is never easy. Researchers at the University of Kansas have partnered with the states of Oklahoma and Iowa on a series of grants totaling $5.75 million to evaluate the effectiveness of a system designed to help case workers reunite children and families affected by substance abuse and to bring new forms of therapy to the fight.

Oklahoma
University of Kansas researchers partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to land a $3.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The five-year grant will help continue work to implement a screening for families at risk of substance abuse in the state. The grant is a continuation of work begun by Jody Brook, assistant professor of social welfare, and Tom McDonald, professor and associate dean. The researchers helped implement the UNCOPE, a universal screening tool for substance abuse. The work is designed not only to improve the well-being of kids in child welfare, but to increase success rates of young people being returned to their families. Oklahoma was the first state in the nation to implement the screen statewide.

“The purpose of a universal screen is to identify those at risk of substance use disorders,” Brook said. “In this instance, substance abuse is a major problem in the child welfare system, and workers need ways to help them identify who should receive full assessments — the UNCOPE does this. Without tools to use, child welfare workers don’t have the information they need to help them make appropriate referrals and treatment linkages.”

Brook, Becci Akin, research associate, and Johnny Kim, associate professor of social welfare, are co-principal investigators for the grant.

The new grant will continue implementing the screening and give case workers new resources to help families who have children in child welfare services because of substance abuse. Researchers will work with Oklahoma state officials to implement two other practices into child welfare: the Strengthening Families Program, a 14-week family skills training program, and solution-focused brief therapy.

The Strengthening Families Program is an evidence-based family skills training program that was developed for substance abusing families, and it teaches the parents basic skills for parenting, teaches the children self-regulation and behavioral management skills, and helps to improve family functioning through improvements in attachment and communication. Additionally, since the children are in foster care placement at the time of Strengthening Families Program training, the group provides much-needed visitation between children and parents. The groups begin with family meals and are then broken out into parent and child groups, and the families practice what they have learned.

Prior research, conducted by Brook and McDonald, has shown that participation in the program by child welfare families reduced the time to reunification, and follow-up studies indicate the reunifications have been successful over the long term.

Solution-focused brief therapy
Kim will lead the effort to implement solution-focused brief therapy through the grants. Kim’s research has shown the technique to be effective in schools. School social workers and educators have had success using the method to work with students who have exhibited problem behavior. Instead of focusing on the negative behavior, school personnel work with the student to focus on their positive aspects and set a course to reduce problematic behavior.

Kim will work with caseworkers in Oklahoma to bring the method to families dealing with substance abuse and removal of children from their household.

“We’re trying to find new ways to engage families and help them with these problems,” Kim said. “Rather than focusing solely on the problem, they’ll recognize the things that have gone well, and small changes they’ve made and can continue to make that can turn into big changes. This approach helps to create positive emotions, and when you have positive emotions, you’re open to new ideas, new approaches and behaviors.”

Iowa
Brook and Akin have also partnered with the Iowa Court Administration Children’s Justice Division to secure a five-year, $2.5 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to help families affected by substance abuse in Iowa.

“This initiative will work to improve child and family well-being for substance abuse affected families with children in foster care, or at risk of foster care placement,” Brook said. “We will provide trauma-informed, child- and family-focused specialized care to these drug court-involved families, as well as work to build Iowa’s collaborative capacity in the area of child welfare, substance abuse and court systems.”

The program will use the Strengthening Families Program as well as another evidence-based parenting program, Celebrating Families, to improve parent, child and family function as part of family drug court efforts to bring families back together after substance abuse threatened or necessitated the removal of children from a home.

Brook and Akin will provide technical assistance and evaluate implementation and outcomes of the programs in the state throughout the life of the grant.

“‘We’re bridging the gap between academic research and clinical practice,’ Kim said. ‘When we work together we can combine our knowledge to create new and effective services that have real public impact.’

Akin echoed the sentiment.

“We will use this opportunity to build the evidence base for what works for substance-affected families and translate this knowledge into more effective practice and policy,” she said.

Contact JODY BROOK at jbrook@ku.edu to discuss further.
Michelle Johnson-Motoyama, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

The Office of Child Welfare and Children’s Mental Health’s Grand Challenge is to help each child reach his or her full potential.

Contact TERRY MOORE at terrym@ku.edu to discuss further.

Michelle Johnson-Motoyama was recently awarded a grant from the Silberman Foundation. Her study addresses the Silberman Fund’s interest in building knowledge regarding the needs of diverse immigrant groups in the context of child welfare programs and policies that promise to promote the development of vulnerable children. In this group, children of Latino immigrants are a growing population. Findings from this research will inform the development and dissemination of social work education and training curricula for the field of child welfare. Findings will also engage immigrant-serving and child welfare organizations through research dissemination activities at the national and local levels.
Program Coordinator
Western Kansas MSW
Kendal Carswell, MSW,

Our vision is an audacious one: nothing less than that of changing social work practice and social policy in the direction of greater dignity, respect and empowerment for the people and communities served by the social work profession. For this reason, we challenge our students to think critically and deeply about the human cost of social problems and to advocate for needed change. And we work to make our professional degree programs more accessible to students across the state who want to make a difference in the life of their communities.

NEW MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW) PROGRAM IN WESTERN KANSAS TO START SUMMER 2013

Anyone who has driven through Kansas knows that it is a very long ride from the northeastern border with Missouri and Nebraska to the southwest border with Oklahoma and Colorado. Kansas City to Elkhart, Kansas is approximately 460 miles and counting. In all of Kansas there are a total of 4,098 MSW prepared practitioners (LMSW and LSCSW). Of this number only 187 master’s professionals practice in the western half of Kansas. This is not surprising, given that there are no MSW educational programs west of Wichita. Thus it has been difficult for social workers in the west to advance their education without moving or commuting out of state. But this is about to change.

The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare will be offering its Advanced Standing MSW program in western Kansas starting in summer 2013. The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, through its partnerships with frontier and rural stakeholders, has long recognized the need for more graduate prepared social workers in western Kansas in order to meet the gaps in service provision that human service agencies have been experiencing.

“Fortunately, the School found a partner in Fort Hays State University’s director of the social work baccalaureate program Tim Davis. Davis, too, had long been concerned about the identified service gaps in western and southwestern Kansas. And we agreed that together we could do something to benefit the people and communities of western Kansas,” said Dean Mary Ellen Kondrat, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare.

After the University of Kansas developed and piloted a successful blended option in its MSW program, it became feasible to think about strategies to bring the program to western Kansas. The blended option combines the value of in class instruction alternating with the accessibility of on-line instruction.

Social welfare and mental health administrators were quick to praise the plan. Cory Turner of Larned State Hospital-Psychiatric Services said, “Structurally, people who would otherwise consider pursuing an MSW have faced significant barriers. By offering access points in both Hays and Garden City, you are providing current staff and those who would like to enter this field with realistic options.”

And Ric Dalke, executive director, Area Mental Health Center said, “The workforce is so limited that employers in this area must compete with each other for a limited supply of qualified individuals. Bringing the classes to this part of the state allows individuals to continue earning a living by reducing the distance they must travel to partake in the classes.”

The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare’s MSW program offering in southwestern Kansas is being made possible through a collaboration between Fort Hays State University and the University of Kansas and in cooperation with Garden City Community College. The in-class sessions of the program will be held on both the Fort Hays State University and at Garden City Community College campuses.

Program coordinator for the University of Kansas Western Kansas MSW program, Kendal Carswell stated, “Being raised in western Kansas, I understand that there are limited resources in many areas. There is a huge demand for professionally trained and licensed social workers in rural areas for providing vitally needed services to Kansas residents and to fill gaps in services. My hope is that this program will begin closing those service gaps and bring quality services to western Kansas that residents need and deserve.”

The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare will hold a kickoff party this summer on June 22 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Southwind Country Club in Garden City and from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Robbins Center in Hays. This event is open to the public, and the School encourages all alumni to attend.

Contact KENDAL CARSWELL at kendalj@ku.edu to discuss further.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE?

The School of Social Welfare reaches out to the world through study abroad programs, conference presentations, consultations, visiting professors, and research and training activities.

Study Abroad
Approximately 40 students attended the School’s 2012-13 study abroad programs. The School’s programs are conducted in:

- Costa Rica in partnership with the University of Costa Rica
- Ireland, partnering with Trinity College and University College (both in Dublin), National University-Ireland (Galway) and University College (Cork)
- South Korea in partnership with Hallym University (Chuncheon)
- India with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai)
- For summer 2013, we will add another location in north Italy in partnership with the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan).

Every student who requested financial assistance received a scholarship, in part thanks to the generosity of donors who feel strongly about the importance of international education. Each program is led by a faculty member in the school. The programs are based on the understanding that in today’s multicultural practice environment, social work practitioners who have experienced the way professionals in diverse cultural contexts practice social work will have

Contact KENDAL CARSWELL at kendalj@ku.edu to discuss further.
alumni make significant contributions toward improving the lives of vulnerable people. Frequently social workers are the catalysts for change. Their work takes place behind the scenes. We honor their success, remembering that there are many, many others whose valuable works goes unrecognized.

Laura Moriarty
Laura Moriarty graduated from the BSW program in 1993. She is currently working as a professor of creative writing at the University of Kansas and continues to write fiction novels. Moriarty's fourth novel, “The Chaperone,” was released last year and awarded The New York Times bestseller and the USA Today #1 Hot Fiction Pick for the summer. Recently, Fox Searchlight acquired the worldwide rights to “The Chaperone” with plans to turn the novel into a movie.

Moriarty started her writing career during her BSW practicum. She became very interested in the patients’ stories, and one day, she decided to start writing down her interactions with patients. Instead of writing down her own thoughts, she decided to write the stories from the perspectives of the patients. Moriarty believes that her social work career shaped her writing career. Her social work background allows her to understand her characters and see them in a different light. The values she learned in school made her aware of the complexities of family dynamics. It truly sparked her passion for writing.

Sam Finke
Sam Finke graduated from the BSW program in 2003 and the MSW program in 2004. Since graduating, Sam has held various positions within government agencies. Currently, she is the press advance lead and special assistant for the White House. In this position, she assists in planning and preparation of official domestic and international events for the President of the United States.

Finke never intended to work in politics. She says it was a fortunate accident. She was graduating with her MSW and had no idea what she wanted to do with her degree. The only thing she was certain about is her passion for community organizing/service. She was also fascinated with how the political process affected a social worker’s ability to work with clients and within their organizations; however, at the time she didn’t know how to combine the two passions. After graduating, Finke accepted a position working in Nevada on Senator Harry Reid’s campaign. After that, she found her calling and the rest has been history.

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a better sense of comparative policies and practices, including the way culture is part of the fabric of doing social work wherever it is practiced.

International Presentations
Faculty and research staff presented research and practice-related papers at conferences around the world last year: Australia (Adelaide); Bangladesh (Dhaka); Canada (St. John’s, Newfoundland); China (Hong Kong); Finland (Turku); Italy (Bressanone and Palazzone); Japan (Tokyo, Osaka City, Kyoto); Kazakhstan (Astana); Nepal (Kathmandu); Netherlands (Amsterdam, Utrecht, Nijmegen); New Zealand (Auckland); Portugal (Lisbon); South Africa (Johannesburg); South Korea (Seoul), Daegu, and Chuncheon); Spain (Barcelona); Sweden (Stockholm); Turkey (Istanbul).

International Visitors
The School also hosts international visitors for several days to a month or more each year. Most of these researchers, students and policy makers come to study with the School’s Office of Mental Health Research and Training to learn about Strengths Based Case Management. Strengths Based Case Management is one of two dominant case management models in the world, and it was developed by the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare faculty and research staff. Visitors over the past year and a half have come from Australia, Canada (Quebec; Newfoundland), China (Hong Kong), Germany, Ireland, Japan, Sweden and Taiwan.

Across the United States
Within the United States, the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare faculty and research staff are working on research or evaluation contracts with state agencies or private nonprofits in many states around the country, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma and Oregon. And, of course, Kansas.

Truly, we can say that the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare embraces communities from Kansas to the world.
JOEL KARMAN

Joel Karman graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor’s of arts in psychology in 1992 and a master’s of social work in 1996. In high school, Karman wanted to go into journalism and chose the University of Kansas for its journalism program. However, prior to stepping foot on the University of Kansas campus, Karman’s mother was in a terrible car accident, which landed her in a coma for two years. This life-changing event placed Karman on a path he never imagined. However, the people he interacted with at the hospital along with a professor at the University of Kansas influenced and encouraged him to change his career path. After graduating with his BA, Karman took a year off of school to grow as a person and then decided to come back to the University of Kansas to obtain his MSW.

After graduating with his MSW, Karman started working as a transplant social worker in a hospital in Chicago, Illinois. This position was just his entry into the health system. After five years of working as a transplant social worker, Karman decided he wanted to have a more global impact and decided to move into hospital administration. By moving up the ladder and also obtaining a master’s in public health policy administration, Karman has held multiple director level positions within the hospital system. Currently, Karman is the associate hospital director at the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System where he manages 35 departments and roughly 400 employees. Karman continues to use his social work license by working at NorthShore University HealthSystem on the weekends. Even though Karman wanted to have more of a global impact, he still didn’t want to give up the one-on-one contact with patients. By working on the weekends as a social worker, he is allowed the best of both worlds. He spends his weekdays in hospital administration and his weekends on-call for the department of psychiatry for those in crisis in the emergency department.

Karman thinks a social work degree is a great base for multiple career paths. He believes his social work degree has helped him communicate better with a variety of different people and personalities, which is a crucial aspect of almost any job, but especially crucial in his hospital administration positions where he has worked with and managed multiple departments and staff.

PAUL GUTIERREZ

Paul Gutierrez graduated from the MSW program in 2009. Since graduating, Gutierrez has worked in direct therapy and counseling at the Mattie Rhodes Center in Kansas City. One of his job duties at Mattie Rhodes was to help with the annual Day of the Dead event. When planning for the event, Gutierrez had an idea to have businesses in the area participate in the event. Not only would this bring more attention to the event and the center, it was sure to help revive the businesses in the area. Gutierrez took it upon himself to start the conversation with the business owners. After going door to door and receiving positive feedback, he decided to start a community group who would meet regularly and discuss other ways to promote the area. With Gutierrez continuing to lead the charge, the group has since come up with the name 17th & Summit, created a logo, and started a Facebook page, website and directory.

Because of his creative and entrepreneurial skills, Gutierrez was named one of 34 KC Business’ Rising Stars in 2012 and was also named one of KC Magazine’s 100 People Who Make Life Better in Kansas City. In addition, this project has sparked a new passion for Gutierrez, and he wants to continue to help in this way.

Spring is a nationally acclaimed expert on issues of trust, intimacy, and forgiveness. In private practice for 35 years, Spring is a recipient of the Connecticut Psychological Association’s Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Practice of Psychology and a former clinical supervisor in the Department of Psychology at Yale University. Spring presented the morning keynote, After the Affair: Trauma – and Forgiveness? Participants learned how to help couples tackle and transcend the trauma of infidelity and feel less hopeless, crazy and alone.

Kahn, originally from Kansas City, is co-director of Artemis Collaborative, a consulting group supporting resilience and wellness for humanitarian aid, human rights, and disaster response workers around the globe through crisis intervention, counseling, organizational consultation, and training. Now based in New York City, Kahn has worked with organizations including Doctors without Borders-USA, the UN, Human Rights Watch, the International Rescue Committee, and American Jewish World Service. She has been deployed to several high-stress environments, including Liberia, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Iraq to provide psychological first aid to national and international staff in the aftermath of traumatic events. Kahn presented the afternoon keynote, A View from the Frontlines: Trauma, Burnout and Mental Health Impacts of Humanitarian Aid Work. Kahn utilized documentary film footage, research data and her personal anecdotes from a decade of work with humanitarian aid workers to illuminate the range of experiences, stressors and mental health consequences to those who work in aid settings around the globe. The particular roles for social workers in helping to mitigate secondary trauma and burnout in aid workers was also discussed.

Social Work Day is an annual event organized by the KU School of Social Welfare and The Social Work Alumni Society. More information about the 2013 event as well as future events is available online at socwel.ku.edu/swday.

Contact VALERIE HAWLEY at vhawley@ku.edu to discuss further.
FAR ABOVE: THE CAMPAIGN FOR KANSAS

Since the kickoff of the Far Above comprehensive campaign in April 2012, so many generous alumni and friends have come forward to support the School in achieving our $5 million campaign goal. We have three more years until the campaign comes to a close in 2016, and we are ecstatic to announce that we have reached more than $3 million and are fully expecting to exceed our goal. Our campaign priorities to increase scholarship support for our bachelor’s and master’s students; to establish funding for first-year Ph.D. students; to enhance funds for our research offices; and to grow unrestricted dollars in the Dean’s Opportunity Fund represent the School’s focus on graduating only the best social workers prepared to serve in their communities. We thank all of our donors and friends for their support in helping the school accomplish its mission and in helping our students realize their dreams and potential. If you would like to make a campaign contribution, or discuss including the school in your estate, please contact Debbie McCord at the University of Kansas Endowment at 785-832-7372 or dmccord@kuendowment.org.

DEAN’S CLUB DINNER 2012

The annual Dean’s Club Dinner was held on October 11, 2012, at the Oread Hotel in Lawrence, Kansas. This annual event was formed to celebrate the generosity of those who give to the School of Social Welfare at the Dean’s Club level. This year we had the privilege of welcoming guest speaker Coach Bill Self. Coach Self inspired the crowd with rousing opening remarks.

Contact DEBBIE MCCORD at dmccord@kuendowment.org to discuss further.

STUDENTS

Doctoral candidate Kaela Byers was awarded one of the highly competitive Duke Fellowships for the Promotion of Child Well-Being. The fellowship is awarded to up to 15 recipients nationally. It will support her in her dissertation on Toxic Stress and Early Childhood.

Doctoral candidate Skye Nichole Leedahl was awarded a Hartford Doctoral Fellowship in aging studies (2011-2013). The Fellowship provides financial support, as well as mentorship and career development for future leaders in researching best practices for services to older adults. The title of Leedahl’s dissertation is Older adults in nursing homes: Assessing relationships between multiple constructs of social integration, facility characteristics, and health.

Felicia Mitchell, second year doctoral student, was selected to receive a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Fellowship Program (MHSAFP) fellowship through the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). Mitchell’s area of focus is in health disparities, particularly with reference to Native American populations.

Doctoral candidate Sur Ah Hahn was the recipient of the American Association of University Women International Fellowship (2011-2012). The award is given to a graduate student who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident in the U.S. Those who receive the awards are selected based on academic achievement and a focus of study on women and girls. Hahn’s area of specialization is violence against women and women’s health.

BSW student Taylor Haun was named as one of the University of Kansas Women of Distinction for 2012. The University of Kansas Women of Distinction Award recognizes approximately 25 faculty, staff and students for their outstanding accomplishments in service.

While many of the School’s faculty, research staff and doctoral students routinely present papers at national conferences, it is not routine for BSW students to do so. Congratulations to BSW students Jesse Rowley, Maggie Tsui, and Taylor Haun, who presented a paper together with their mentor, Toni Johnson, Ph.D., at the 2012 Society for Social Work and Research Conference.

Join the DEAN’S LISTSERV by emailing rosaleen@ku.edu.